Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Bob Parsons and Marva Ammon, and a party of 10 gathered in the Parish house of St. Wilfrid Catholic Church in Woonsocket, South Dakota, on July 8, 1953, to unite Bob and Marva in holy matrimony; and,

Whereas, Bob and Marva interpreted the Bible's instructions to multiply and fill the earth very literally, and gave life and love to nine children: David, Dean, Diane, Roberta, Lynnette, Glennis, Ted, Tom, and Janelle, who, in turn, presented their parents with 22 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and one great-grandchild on the way; and,

Whereas, With eight of their nine children to feed, no money in the bank, but the support of a young, pregnant wife, Bob graduated from Huron College with a degree in English; and,

Whereas, Bob has worked in many fields, from cleaning pheasants and delivering milk to managing brokerage firms, furniture stores, and a rent-to-own company; and,

Whereas, Marva managed a home of eleven, and provided their growing family with the finest of food, the cleanest of clothes, and the warmest of smiles; and,

Whereas, At every gathering at the Parson's table, a prayer is asked and answered with the gift of happiness, health, and prosperity, and anyone absent from the table at 6 o'clock went hungry; and,

Whereas, Bob and Marva have been blessed with world travel, but the fondest of memories lie in their many trips to Woonsocket to visit parents, family and friends. It often took a caravan of two station wagons to include the entire, growing family in their trips to Woonsocket, and in order to make a more enjoyable ride for all, each child took their turn getting out at the Ft. Thompson curve to run for a mile or so; and,

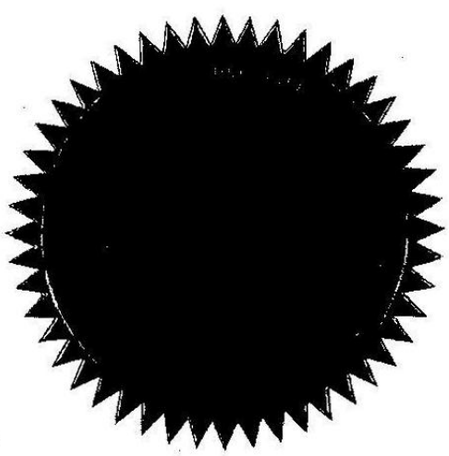
Whereas, Bob has stuck with his Bermuda shorts until they became fashionable again, and Marva has kept her collection of wigs in the hope that they, too, will one day be back in vogue; and,

Whereas, Faith in God and love of family have been the driving force behind this near perfect union, and more hugs than spankings taught and molded their children into nine remarkable adults, who have organized a gathering of family and friends on Saturday, July 5, 2003, to honor this couple on their 50th Anniversary:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 8, 2003, as

BOB & MARVA PARSONS DAY

in South Dakota, and I join with the honored couple's family and friends in wishing them continued health and happiness in a state that stands prouder today because of their contributions and commitment..



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-sixth Day of June in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State